

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) In a wireless communication system, a method comprising:
- estimating a channel condition over a first time window;
  - comparing the estimated channel condition to a first threshold value;
  - determining a transmission rate for transmission of quality messages and differential indicators based on the comparison;
  - transmitting quality messages at the transmission rate; and
  - transmitting differential indicators independently of quality messages.

9. (Original) The method as in claim 8, wherein the first time window is dynamically adjusted based on operation of the system.

10. (Original) The method as in claim 8, further comprising:
- calculating an average channel condition; and
  - calculating variance of the channel condition.

11. (Previously Presented) A wireless apparatus, comprising:
- means for estimating a channel condition over a first time window;
  - means for comparing the estimated channel condition to a first threshold value;

means for determining a transmission rate for transmission of quality messages and differential indicators based on the comparison;

means for transmitting quality messages at the transmission rate; and

means for transmitting differential indicators independently of quality messages

12. (Original) In a wireless communication system for processing voice communications and packet-switched communications, a base station comprising:

receive circuitry operative to receive signals on a reverse link, including a quality message with a parity check, and differential indicators, the quality message periodically providing a quality metric of a forward link, wherein the differential indicators track the quality metric between successive quality messages;

a memory storage unit operative to store a quality message received on the reverse link;

and

a differential analyzer to update the quality message stored in the memory storage unit in response to the differential indicators and the parity check.

13. (Previously Presented) A wireless apparatus, comprising:

processing unit, operative for executing computer-readable instructions; and

a memory storage unit adapted to store a plurality of computer-readable instructions for:

generating quality messages and differential indicators at a first frequency,

the quality messages providing information on the quality of a communication

link, wherein the differential indicators track a quality metric between successive

quality messages; and

generating a parity check for each of the quality messages.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the plurality of computer-readable instructions are further adapted for:

generating differential indicators at a second frequency, the differential indicators indicating changes in the quality of the communication link, wherein the second frequency is greater than the first frequency.

15. (Previously Presented) A wireless apparatus, comprising:

processing unit, operative for executing computer-readable instructions; and  
a memory storage unit adapted to store a plurality of computer-readable instructions for:  
estimating a channel condition over a first time window;  
comparing the estimated channel condition to a first threshold value;  
determining a transmission rate for transmission of quality messages and  
differential indicators based on the comparison;  
transmitting quality messages at the transmission rate; and  
transmitting differential indicators independently of quality messages.

16. (Previously Presented) In a wireless communication system, the wireless communication system supporting a plurality of carriers, a method comprising:

determining an average channel condition among the plurality of carriers;  
comparing the average channel condition to a first threshold value;  
determining a transmission rate for transmission of quality messages and differential  
indicators based on the comparison;  
transmitting quality messages at the transmission rate; and

transmitting differential indicators independently of quality messages.

17. (Original) The method as in claim 16, further comprising:

assigning a weight to each of the plurality of carriers, wherein the average channel condition is a weighted average.

18. (Previously Presented) A wireless apparatus, comprising:

processing unit, operative for executing computer-readable instructions; and  
a memory storage unit adapted to store a plurality of computer-readable instructions for:  
determining a best channel condition associated with a first frequency; and  
generating a quality message, the quality message including a quality indicator  
and a frequency indicator, the frequency indicator identifying the first frequency; and  
generating differential indicators separately from the quality message.

19. (Original) The wireless apparatus as in claim 18, wherein the frequency indicator is a pointer to select the first frequency from a plurality of predetermined frequencies.

20. (Previously Presented) A wireless apparatus, comprising:

a quality measurement unit configured to estimate a channel condition over a first time window;  
a differential analyzer configured to compare the estimated channel condition to a first threshold value; and  
a controller configured to determine a transmission rate for transmission quality messages and differential indicators based on the comparison, the differential analyzer further

configured to generate quality messages at the transmission rate, the differential analyzer further configured to transmit differential indicators independently of quality messages.

21. (Previously Presented) The wireless apparatus of claim 20, wherein the first time window is dynamically adjusted based on operation of the system.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~The method as in claim 8~~ The wireless apparatus of claim 20, wherein the controller is configured to:

calculate an average channel condition; and  
calculate a variance of the channel condition.

23. (New) The wireless apparatus of claim 11, further comprising:

means for dynamically adjusting the first window based on operation of the system.

24. (New) The wireless apparatus of claim 11, further comprising:

means for calculating an average channel condition; and  
means for calculating variance of the channel condition.

25. (New) A computer-readable medium comprising:

code for causing a computer to estimate a channel condition over a first time window on a system;  
code for causing a computer to compare the estimated channel condition to a first threshold value;

code for causing a computer to determine a transmission rate for transmission of quality messages and differential indicators based on the comparison; code for causing a computer to transmit quality messages at the transmission rate; and code for causing a computer to transmit differential indicators independently of quality messages.

26. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 25, further comprising code for causing a computer to dynamically adjust the first time window based on operation of the system.

27. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 25, further comprising:

code for causing a computer to calculate an average channel condition; and code for causing a computer to calculate variance of the channel condition.